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Alternate Juror Says She Would Have Acquitted Rewald

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One of the alternate jurors released from the Ronald Rewald trial today said she would have voted to acquit Rewald of fraud charges.

U.S. Judge Harold Fong dismissed six alternate jurors to allow the panel of 12 regular jurors to begin deliberations after an 11-week trial.

One of the alternates was told not to talk to anyone about the case because she may yet be called on to deliberate should one of the 12 jurors have to withdraw. Of the five other alternates, only three agreed to talk to reporters.

One woman, who asked not to be identified, said she had "plenty of questions" about the CIA's involvement in Rewald's company, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

SHE SAID SHE would have voted "not guilty" if she had voted this morning. She said, however, she would have remained open to "discussion" with other jurors.

Another woman alternate, who also asked not to be named, said she had "sort of made up my mind" but she would not say how she would have voted. She did say that she did not think Rewald's connection to the CIA was more than just providing telephone and telex backstopping, as the government said.

Kerry Moyer said he wanted to wait until the verdict is returned before he would say how he would have voted.

He said it seemed that, at times during the trial, all was not being told about the CIA involvement.

Moyer said the truth probably was "somewhere in between" what the government and the defense said.

ATTORNEYS YESTERDAY wrapped up their closing arguments with the prosecution calling Rewald a "nine-headed serpent" and the defense charging the government with a cover-up.

"Where there's a lot of smoke ... there's a fire somewhere," said Deputy Federal Public Defender Brian Tamanaha about the government's alleged attempt to minimize Rewald's connection to the CIA.

Federal Prosecutor Ted Greenberg agreed that there was smoke. But he said it was created by "a smoke machine at the defense table."

"There's so much smoke in this room it's hard to see," Greenberg said.

He then launched into a closing argument that at times seemed more like a name-calling session. He called Rewald a liar, cheater and thief who "wormed" his way into an association with the CIA. He capped it off by calling Rewald a Hydra, a nine-headed mythical beast.

That caused federal Public Defender Michael Levine to protest Greenberg's "character assassination" of Rewald.

GREENBERG called preposterous Rewald's claims that the CIA told him to set up Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong

to take money from citizens.

"Mr. Rewald wants you to believe your government told him to steal that money ... and to spend it," Greenberg said. He said it was ridiculous to think the government "decided we needed this bankrupt, petty criminal" to leave Wisconsin and set up a fake business in Hawaii.

Greenberg questioned why the CIA would want Rewald to spend millions of dollars on himself and family, including buying jewelry, gun collections and custom-made rugs.

He also questioned why the CIA would want Rewald to spend \$280,000 of investors' money on sexual and social favors from women.

Rewald "blames all of his crimes on the CIA," Greenberg said, yet he took money from "sick and dying" investors who trusted him.

Tamanaha, however, told the jury that the government attempted to cover up its real connections to Rewald as early as 1982. It was then that the IRS began investigating Rewald and the CIA stepped in and briefly stopped the probe.

THE CIA DEMANDED at that time that Rewald turn over all his CIA documents, Tamanaha said.

Then, aware that Rewald was taking money from investors, the CIA pulled out and allowed \$7 million more to be taken in before the eventual collapse in July 1983, Tamanaha said.

"If the CIA knew (the company was fake), why didn't they tell anybody?" Tamanaha asked the jury.